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MARTINIQUE

I. Status and Strength of the Communist Party of Martinique

The Communists' strength in Martinique has been traceable to their organized opposition to racial discrimination, French "colonialism", and their influence in most of the local trade unions. A factor of major importance to the Party was the leadership of Aimée Cesaire, the most prominent figure in Martinique politics. His resignation from the Party in October 1956 has had severe repercussions on Communist voting strength as illustrated by 1957 by-elections in which the Communist candidates lost to Cesaire's. The estimated Communist Party membership in Martinique is less than 4,000.

II. Party Units Responsible for Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping or Terrorist Missions

For violent strike action which was carried out in 1956 the CP of Martinique had organized shock troops having a total strength of about 200 men, and was paying 500 francs a day to each man during the height of the strike in the sugar cane industry. The militant action force was divided into groups of 20.

III. Sabotage Training Given Within Martinique

Negative.

IV. Sabotage Training Given Martinique Communists in Communist Bloc Countries

Negative.

V. Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping, Terrorist Missions and Targets

a. U.S. and/or U.S. Allies Personnel, Installations

Negative.

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b. Other Sabotage Targets

In 1956 Communist shock troops were ordered by their leaders to burn sugar crops and to intimidate non-striking workers.

VI. Evidence of Direction and Support from the USSR, China or Other Communist Country

Negative.

IX. Estimate of Threat from Local Communist Party Sabotage, Terrorism, etc.

Because of the CP's loss of strength since the resignation of Aimée Cesaire in October 1956, the Communist Party has less chance now than before that date to succeed in organizing wide-scale terrorism and sabotage. Genuine local grievances could be exploited and whipped into demonstrations by certain of the trade unions where the Communist Party still enjoys some influence.

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